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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. Week in Review: The anti-colonialism issue continued to dominate Soviet press coverage during the week (CF. WEEKA No. 44) with the main focus on Cuba, Algeria an important secondary theme, and Congo the subject of diminished coverage. The anti-colonialism issue in the case of Algeria carried over to the most unequivocally critical Soviet press comment on de Gaulle observed to date. Press coverage of the UN disarmament discussions continued to make the point that the USSR would not be a party to a senseless waste of time, but again there was no clear indication if and when the Soviets would walk out. An article by Soviet Atomic Energy Chief Emelyanov (Pravda, Nov. 1) developed the argument that the US (and AEC Chairman McCone) were guilty of hedging and duplicity on the subject of the nuclear test ban talks and disarmament generally. Against this background the first bloc delegation (Mongolian) arrived in Moscow for the Nov. 7 celebrations.

2. Cuba: Khrushchev's interview with Cuban journalists Oct. 22 was published by all Moscow papers Oct. 30. The interview served to reiterate the general Soviet endorsement of Castro, but revealed Khrushchev as apparently reluctant to be drawn into too precise and categoric a restatement of his July 9 rocket pledge.

On Oct. 29 the Cuban economic delegation headed by "Che" Guevara arrived in Moscow from Prague. In an interview published in Soviet Russia Nov. 1, Guevara stated that the purpose of his trip is to work out the details of the Soviet-Cuban economic agreement of Feb. 1960. He also stated that the delegation would remain in the USSR for two weeks and then spend "several weeks" in the CPR and North Korea before returning via Moscow to East Berlin. Guevara also revealed some details of his negotiations in Prague including the fact that the Czechs have doubled their credit (from 20 to 40 million dollars) to Castro regime. Two other Cuban delegations arrived during the week: a group of officials of the "July 26 Movement" and a second journalists' delegation.

The output of Soviet propaganda on Cuba, relying largely on Cuban and other foreign press reports, included full-page spreads on the Cuban volunteer militia, feature stories on Guantanamo, and a steady stream of reports about the allegedly planned invasion of Cuba from Florida and Guatemala. Statements by Cuban foreign Minister Raol Roa and Zorin at the UN during the debate on the Cuban resolution have also been reported in detail.

3. France and Algeria: General de Gaulle was subjected to harsh criticism in a Pravda (Nov. 3) "Observer" article which condemned the "bankruptcy" of his Algerian policy and the "verbal contrivances" designed to conceal the "Dead End" to which his policy had led. De Gaulle was also accused of trying to conceal his Algerian failure by resorting to slander against the USSR in his recent speeches in Southern France. "Observer" charged that the General was now in unison with American reactionary propaganda on the "captive nations" issue. His references in this connection to Prussia and Saxony drew the comment that the General had aligned himself

with Adenauer and German militarists in their pretensions against Germany's neighbors. There was, in addition, further adverse comment on the arrangements for training German troops in France.

The sharp "Observer" attack on de Gaulle came after a number of press articles on the 6th anniversary of the beginning of the Algerian war. Presumably this occasion, taken in conjunction with the present strongly anti-colonial beat of Soviet policy, accounted for the severity with which de Gaulle was treated. At the same time, the article seemed to mark a definite stage in the gradual process of Soviet disenchantment with the French leader.

4. US Polaris Base in UK: Establishment of a US Polaris submarine base in Scotland was the subject of considerable press attention during the week. Besides citing the dangers for Britain in accepting the base and alleged British public disapproval of the agreement, the press juxtaposed Prime Minister MACMILLAN's alleged assurance to Parliament that the Polaris submarines would not begin military operations without advance consultation with British authorities. With a report that a State Department spokesman had refused to confirm the Macmillan statement and declared that no obligation concerning advance consultation existed.

5. US Election: As the election campaign approached its climax, Soviet propaganda exploitation of the campaign material and statements also increased. The major theme in this increased output has been the alleged decline of US prestige and the deterioriation of our economy. Lengthy quotations from Stevenson, Kennedy, Nixon, and Lippman, have been used to support these two themes. The elections have also been seized upon to publish a number of feature stories on such topics as the plight of farmers in the US (illustrated by Tobacco Road-style photographs), the growth of US slums, and the Klu Klux Klan. There has been no attempt to predict the outcome nor any expression of Soviet preference as between the candidates.

6. Soviet-Turkish Relations: Turkish national day, Oct. 29, was the occasion for considerable press attention to the "somewhat changed" basis of Soviet-Turkish relations. Several Soviet papers printed editorials on the occasion reviewing relations since Ataturk's assumption of power, and stressing the cooperation between the USSR and the Ataturk regime. Although press comment was restrained, it clearly expressed hope that the new Gursel Government would follow a course of developing close relations with the USSR. The national day reception was well attended by Soviet leaders including Presidium members Ignatov and Polyanskiy and former USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Chairman Voroshilov. On Oct. 28 Soviet television broadcast an address by Turkish Ambassador Koruturok which included markedly cautious references to the possibility of improved Soviet-Turkish relations.

7. Intra-Bloc Relations: The Nov. 2 arrival in Moscow of a Mongolian delegation headed by Tsedenbal for the Nov. 7 celebrations marked the beginning of what will presumably be an intensified period of high-level intra-bloc discussion affecting Soviet-Chinese differences. The first formal activity reported in connection with the anniversary of the 1917 Revolution

was a Friendship evening at the CPR Embassy. According to press reports, the ranking Soviet guest was First Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov, and it was perhaps significant that no higher party official was reported as being in attendance.

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8. Leadership: There have been no published reports of N. S. KHRUSHCHEV'S current activities since his attendance at a Kremlin Theatre performance the evening of October 25, and he presumably is vacationing on the Black Sea coast, possibly in the company of some of his leading subordinates. (B. Aristov, F. R. Kozlov, N. A. Mukhitdinov, M. A. Suslov and Ye. A. Furtseva also have not been in evidence during the week.) The delayed publication October 30 of Khrushchev's conversation with a group of Cuban journalists October 22 served to keep the premier in Soviet press headlines, a strategam quite frequently employed during his vacations. After an apparent absence of nearly two months, A. I. Mikoyan is back in Moscow where his reported activity since October 31 seems to have focused on taking care of the visiting Cuban state economic mission headed by "Che" Guevara. Somewhat curiously, A. N. Kosygin was not among the Soviet participants in the Soviet-Cuban economic negotiations which took place November 1, but appeared to head the Soviet greeters of the Mongolian party-state delegation which arrived the following day. P. N. Pospelov was out of town, at least briefly, to participate in a Tatar Oblast Party Committee Plenum which released Obkom First Secretary S.D. Ignat'yev, a CPSU Central Committee member and one time Minister of State Security, because of his "state of health" (Emb Despatch No. 298 of November 1, 1960).

9. Central Committee to Meet December 13: The CPSU Central Committee Plenum scheduled for December 13 (Soviet press of October 29) may, as advertised, be devoted to consideration of the fulfillment of agricultural plan goals for 1960 and measures for the further development of Soviet agriculture. Even should it stick to this topic, spotty achievements this year with definite failures in some areas should prompt a certain amount of acrid "self-criticism" which may be informative and also result in the selection and punishment of a few scapegoats for what was in large measure the fault of unfavorable weather combined with basic weaknesses in planning and organization (attributable more to the inherent limitations of the system than to individual performances). It will also be recalled that the comparable plenum a year ago saw the denouement and precipitated the disgrace of the former Party personage and then Kazakh Party First Secretary N.I.BELYAYEV (who has since disappeared from sight following a brief period as First Secretary in Stavropol' Krai), and that the 1958 CC Plenum on agriculture was used for a major attack on the anti-Party group.

Although an address by N.S.Khrushchev is not openly scheduled, it is, of course, anticipated that he will deliver the key speech or speeches, and it will be unusual if he limits himself to strictly agricultural themes. Of the latter, a further pushing by the plenum of the agrogorod concept seems likely, possibly in terms of greater inter-kolkhoz, joint operations and

"voluntary" relinquishment of private plots and livestock against a backdrop of claimed higher rural material and cultural well-being. Contrary to the scheduled agenda for the agricultural plenum a year ago, which focused on key agricultural areas, a report is to be required of every union republic as well as the Russian Federation, with a separate report for the northern regions of Kazakhstan where much of the virgin lands are located.

Editorials on the scheduled plenum (notably those in Izvestiya of October 29 and Pravda of October 30) suggest that the plenum will not be tolerant of speakers' attempts to cover-up deficiencies and failures in the regions they are called upon to represent. Realization of this prospect may have been a factor in the decision to postpone a scheduled plenum of the Azerbaidzhan CP Central Committee from October 31 to "the second half of November" (Bakinskiy Rabochiy of October 29). The December 13 plenum may also provide a few hints as to whether the 1961 Party Congress is to be a routine affair or a self-termed introduction to the final drive for achievement of a communist society, including possibly a new basic party program suitable to this final "stage."

10. Voroshilov Given Unusual Attention: For reasons that remain obscure, former Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium Marshal K. Ye. VOROSHILOV has been given a considerably greater share of the limelight in the past few days than has been his lot in the period since he was released "at his request" from the Supreme Soviet Presidium chairmanship (May) and the Central Committee Presidium (July). Singled out for momentary individual attention by the wandering TV camera recording the RSFSR Supreme Soviet session October 25, he was listed with other marshals in the list of signers of the Marshal Nedelin obituary October 27, and was photographed with top current leaders at the funeral that day. His name has been figuring frequently in articles, brochures and books recalling the 1917 revolution, civil war, and foreign intervention period, and his visit to the opening of a Lenin Library exhibit of archives pertinent to the 40th anniversary of the ending of the civil war was well publicized, with photographs centered on him in Trud and Red Star of November 1. (The Red Star article accompanying the photograph quoted "Kliment Yefremovich" liberally, including a warning to potential aggressors of the USSR.) Furthermore, Voroshilov's replacement as Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium L. I. BREZHNEV, at an individual presentation ceremony in the Kremlin November 2, bestowed on him a gold "Hammer and Sickle" medal, an order of Lenin and a "Hero of Socialist Labor" award "for outstanding services to the Communist Party and Soviet State." From the foregoing, it seems probable that Khrushchev's especially warm and direct greeting of Voroshilov televised on the former's return to Moscow October 14 was of more significance as a measure of the Marshal's currently improved status than seemed apparent at the time. It is ironic that the attention being given this "Old Bolshevik" military participant in the revolution and civil war may be due in some part to his earlier zeal as Peoples Commissar of Defense in the late thirties in helping to exterminate many of his military associates, some of whom might have been his competitors for attention now had they survived.

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